

To; Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing you today in response to the bill being introduced regarding provisioning centers and the structure of regulation regarding them. In a perfect world it would be easy to make everyone happy but as you know we don't. We have to deal with a federal government that refuses to admit the medical uses for marijuana but on the other hand, holds a patent on the chemicals contained in it. Even though study after study verifies the capabilities of this drug and its ability to kill cancer cells. I can also provide you with a list of more than 100 studies around the world that verify this fact.

I am a patient, caregiver and dispensary owner so I know what the perils that all sides face. I have had many problems throughout that last 3 years which cost me several crops and left me purchasing medication for myself and patients at times. I have been sued by the city of Norton Shores as a nu-sense to the community and my dispensary was closed down. Now, I am being sued as a nu-sense to the community because my home based business supposedly takes up more than 25% of my home. Costing me thousands of dollars in legal fees to defend!

I have been trying to open a provisioning center in Norton Shores for many reasons and of those only one matters, the patient's needs! When I got my card, I didn't have a caregiver and there were only a couple options for medication and a provisioning center wasn't one. There was no one to ask questions of and no place to go for answers; this hasn't changed much in 5 years! The cost at that time was above \$450.00 per ounce. Most people that need the medicine couldn't afford it then and can't afford it now. I know I couldn't. Competition is what drives prices and anyone with business experience knows this. Provisioning centers/dispensaries in Colorado have brought the price down to \$150.00 per ounce. Right now the price in Michigan for an ounce of medical marijuana is anywhere from \$300.00 to \$450.00. When I was open and advertising, I was continually busy, with three people serving patients we could not keep up. That shows what type of demand there is because of the lack of quality medical cannabis.

What about terminally ill people, should they have to wait five to six months for their caregiver to produce medication for them? Should they even have to wait a month or more to find a caregiver? Provisioning centers are necessary for many reasons and the most important is the patients. 5 years after the medical marijuana act has been in place and medical marijuana patients still have to drive across the state to get medication. If this were any other medical patient, people would be outraged.

After reading a draft of the language in the dispensary bill, I would agree too many parts of it but I have to strongly disagree with the provisions to leave licensing and regulation of provisioning centers to the local municipalities. We currently have that and it is not working. Any city can decide to work with patients and caregivers since the law was passed and very few have. In fact just the opposite is happening, many localities have banned these establishments and other businesses related to medical marijuana. That is why people are driving to Muskegon from Detroit, Travers City and Alpena to get medication. Muskegon is one of the only localities that have worked with the Michigan medical

marijuana act. This is a complete violation of the Michigan medical marijuana act and these patients civil rights.

We currently have cities that are breaking the law by violating the Michigan medical marijuana act by issuing licenses to co-ops and charging extremely large amounts of money to grow illegally! The city of Springfield Michigan has taken it upon themselves to issue licenses at \$40,000.00 per year for someone to grow 2000 plants. This is why the state has to step in and set regulations. I was notified of this at meetings I have been holding in Muskegon. I have included a copy of the rate sheet from Springfield Michigan.

What a stark difference, most cities banning anything to do with medical marijuana and others breaking the law and charging extortion money to do it! As you can see, leaving things up to the localities can have extreme differences in application of the law.

Provisioning centers should be required to have medication tested, forcing the caregivers to concentrate on quality instead of money. 60% of the medical patients in Michigan are not getting medical grade marijuana and that is because there is no regulation. Some medications being grown or made into food and supplied to patients is unhealthy, containing animal hair or other things like Pesticides or mold which is harmful to humans and can even cause death. Testing has to be required across the board to assure patients are getting safe quality medication. Assuring patient's safety is a very important issue and one that can only be controlled by the state and managed locations that can assure the quality.

Many caregivers are taking advantage of patients and never providing medication so we have a problem of patients not reporting abuses by caregivers because they feel there is not anyone to report the crimes too. I hear these stories daily. Most caregiver/patient relationships are verbal agreement and in the end the caregiver sells the medication leaving the patient without compensation of any type.

Many patients don't have a caregiver or have a caregiver that is providing them with medication. Many caregivers are not able to grow medical grade marijuana which leaves the patients without medicine. Provisioning centers are the only place a patient knows that they can get their prescription filled with quality and in a safe place.

What happened to the granny test? Many patients are actually over the age of 50. They just want the same thing that is available to every other medical patient. A place to get medication that meets the requirements of medical marijuana and that is safe, meaning no pesticides, mold or other contaminants. A place they can go where they feel comfortable to discuss their needs with someone that knows that the medication actually does and can help get them the proper medications.

As a dispensary owner, I would like nothing better than the city and state to work with us. We want to help the patients of Michigan as well as our great state. The medical marijuana industry is already a huge underground market that is growing with no controls and the state is missing out on the opportunity to work with the patients and entrepreneurs to set up proper safety and business

management of all these new businesses. We would love to know that we were operating within the law and pay our taxes just like every other business in Michigan. There is software available now for provisioning centers so city and state taxes can easily be collected and reported. The tracking of inventory and patients very simple, states like Colorado and Washington have made great advancements in this area and now there are many manufacturers of software that do this. They call it Seed to Sale tracking system.

I have written all my representatives and Senators on many occasions about this issue and tried to create a dialog but all my attempts basically go unanswered. Don't you all in Lansing work for us? Don't we pay your salaries and benefits out of our taxes? Wasn't this law passed by 63% of Michigan residents? As citizens of Michigan and medical patients, shouldn't you be concerned about us?

I am also the owner and manager of the 420 Super PAC. I started this political action committee to help level the playing field against special interest and those that continually fight the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act and the patients of Michigan, wasting millions of our tax dollars. We are the 63%.

I will be there to testify on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. I hope I can answer your questions.

Thank you Paul Miller

Paul J Miller  
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## **Michigan House of Representatives**

### **Judiciary Committee Hearing Dated May 23, 2013**

#### **Testimony of Gerrad A. Foster on the Distribution of Medical Marihuana in Michigan**

Dear Committee Members,

Though I support the passing of legislation which allows for the regulated distribution of medical marihuana to patients and caregivers who fall under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), I do not support House Bill 4271 (HB 4271). As HB 4271 is written, a legal defense is provided for patients and caregivers who supply, transfer, sell or deliver medical marihuana to a legal provision center under section 10, subsection 2(b). Yet, this protection may be superseded by the MMMA and allow for the prosecution of these patients and caregivers under section 4(k) of the MMMA.

As provided in Section 6, subsection 2 of HB 4271:

*“Except for the Michigan medical marihuana act, all other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act do not apply to the use of medical marihuana as provided for by this act”.*

This gives the statutes provided by the MMMA supremacy over those in HB 4271 which are inconsistent with the MMMA. A legal quagmire is presented based on section 4(k) of the MMMA:

*“Any registered qualifying patient or registered primary caregiver who sells marihuana to someone who is not allowed to use marihuana for medical purposes under this act shall have his or her registry identification card revoked and is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both, in addition to any other penalties for the distribution of marihuana.”*

and section 7(e) of the MMMA:

*“All other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act do not apply to the medical use of marihuana as provided for by this act.”*

# Written Testimony- House Judiciary Committee

From Rick Thompson- [4mrick@gmail.com](mailto:4mrick@gmail.com)

Distinguished Committee Members-

Many will advocate in support of medical marijuana distribution centers for medical or humanitarian reasons, and you should listen to them. In this testimony I will introduce two other reasons to embrace marijuana distribution centers: revenue generation and state competitiveness.

**Distribution centers already exist in Michigan** and are functional members of their respective business communities. Over the last 4 years Michigan reached a high of more than 400 dispensaries and today they number between 75 and 100. With that in mind, think to yourself for a moment- when have you heard of a dispensary selling to a minor? Never. Any homicides at any of those 400 dispensaries? Never. Any communities crying out because of a crime wave generated by a dispensary? I've not seen a single story like that in Michigan newspapers over the last four years. Two stories that DID recently appear in papers: Ewart's city council just recently voted to allow dispensaries in their town. The city of Douglas just voted to allow growing operations in commercial districts. You should appreciate that marijuana-related business are here. The genie will not go back into the bottle.

**There can be no revenue generation from medical marijuana without organized distribution.** That is so important as to bear repeating: there can be no revenue generation from medical marijuana without organized distribution. Don't think about them as marijuana distribution centers, think of them instead as the tax collection centers for the marijuana community, the licensing fee generation centers, the surcharge creation centers. In a normal transaction defined within the MMMA, a caregiver sells marijuana to his patient. In an organized distribution scenario, those transactions still take place but that caregiver is also able to sell marijuana to a provisioning center, which then redistributes it to registered patients. In the first scenario there is no opportunity for revenue generation but in the second scenario you have created an intermediary agency, the provisioning center, whose transactions can be structured to allow profit for the state.

Michigan has worked hard to establish itself as The Place to go to for innovative technologies, for creative thinkers, for enterprising new businesses. We give tax breaks, incentives, infrastructure improvements and much more to seduce industry to locate here. All of those enticements come at a cost to Michigan taxpayers- and we pay that price because we're gambling on those businesses will bring prosperity to our state. **With medical marijuana we find an entire industry already established in all counties across the state**, just ready to burst out- with no enticements, no new traffic lights, no tax abatements. Pure entrepreneurial spirit. This industry represents the essence of what it means to be Michigan- once carved from the rugged frontier but now, carving our way through a new frontier of competitiveness and economic challenge.

**We are in competition.** Illinois has passed medical marijuana through their legislature. Their largest city, Chicago, has decriminalized the possession of marijuana just like our largest city did. Wisconsin's legislature passed medical marijuana; Ohio is going to do the same in 2014. Our unique opportunity to work with business is now. International corporations are considering which states they want to locate industrial buildings and corporate headquarters in. **Medical marijuana companies are traded on the stock market-** Medbox, Mediswipe, Medical Marijuana Inc. These are the companies who are evaluating which state has the friendliest environment for this industry. Distribution centers are the places where these national companies provide credit card services, automated service equipment and secure record-keeping and file sharing services. Without provisioning centers, why would they come here?

I encourage you to embrace Gov. Snyder's stated position of **embracing innovative industries by thinking outside the box**. His efforts have been focused in attracting new industry to our state- embrace instead one that is already here. There is no industry that embodies those words and that spirit more than the medical marijuana industry.

May 23, 2013

I was diagnosed with stage four brain and lung cancer last September. My whole world just froze ~~it~~ everything just seemed to be moving in slow motion, it felt like a dream. I didn't know what to do, my daughter suggested medical marijuana and I was for that idea I just had ~~no~~ way of knowing how to go about it. My daughter dose medical marijuana for fibermyalgia so she got me started in the right direction, but it was my local dispensary that got me started down the right path. They helped me get a card and helped me with my medicine which I started ~~im~~ immediately. They helped determine my right treatment which happened to be Simpson oil. I started right away and without that immediate help I don't think I would be here today. If I had to wait and find a caregiver and wait for them to plant my medicine and would have had to wait for my medicine to be ready I think I would be dead and then where would my family be.

Starting the medicine right away gave me a chance at life. It helped me threw my chemo I was able to keep on appetite. I only lost

May 23, 2013

Let me just start out by saying how much I love and need my Dad, our whole family is close. He is what keeps our family together and without him I don't know where we would be.

In September of 2012 my Dad was told he had stage Four lung and brain cancer. I was devastated, but I also knew what I could do to help him was to get him started on medical marijuana right away and without the help of my local dispensary that would not have been possible. If we would have waited around to find a caregiver have them plant some plants and wait six months for the plants to produce medicine my Dad would not be here. He would have died waiting around for his medicine, but with the help of a local dispensary he was able to start right away. Not only was he able to start right away, they also helped determine the best course of treatment which happened to be Simpson oil. Something I had never heard about until my local dispensary told me about it.





## FEE SCHEDULE - EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 2013

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA

	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
<b>Individual (no more than one licensed caregiver on site):</b>			
Application Fee	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual License Fee			
Up to 12 plants	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
13-24 plants	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
25-36 plants	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
37-48 plants	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
49-60 plants	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Collective (two or more licensed caregivers on site):</b>			
Application Fee	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Annual License Fee			
up to 125 plants	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
126-250 plants	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
251-400 plants	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
401-600 plants	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
601-1,000 plants	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
1,001-2,000 plants	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
2,000+ plants	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
<b>Distribution Only (no plants on premises)</b>			
Application Fee	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Annual License Fee			
up to 20 patients	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
21-50 patients	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
51-100 patients	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
101+ patients	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00



# Want More Crime in Your City? Close Your Local Medical Marijuana Dispensary, Says Study

By Aylin Zafar Sept. 26, 2011

JOSHUA LOTT / REUTERS

Medicinal (and, ahem, recreational) marijuana aims to soothe, ease, and relax users; take away said users' pot and be prepared to face the consequences.

A report released Tuesday by the RAND Corp., a Santa Monica-based think tank, revealed that after hundreds of medical marijuana dispensaries were forced to close in Los Angeles last year, crime rates rose significantly in nearby neighborhoods.

Law enforcement agencies have long been after these dispensaries, arguing that the large amounts of cash are a magnet for thieves, who often go on to resell marijuana. Yet, after what investigators are calling "the most rigorous independent examination of its kind" of LA dispensaries, it appears that the city might need to rethink their position.

**(MORE: U.S. Rules That Marijuana Has No Medical Use. What Does Science Say?)**

Researchers gathered information and crime reports from 600 dispensaries in Los Angeles County, of which 430 were ordered to close by City Council. They then looked at the 10 days prior to when the ordinance took effect (June 7, 2010) and the 10 days after the shutdown. They found a 59% increase in crime within three-tenths of a mile of the closed dispensaries and 24% increase within six-tenths of a mile.

"If medical marijuana dispensaries are causing crime, then there should be a drop in crime when they close," said Mireille Jacobson, the RAND study's lead author and senior economist. Researchers went on to explain that open dispensaries probably strengthened the security of the immediate area, if anything, due to their security cameras and guards, as well as an increase in foot traffic and trumping illegal street sales of marijuana.

While the Los Angeles Police Department isn't completely convinced, they also reveal that much of the complaints from neighbors of the dispensaries deal with issues of loitering, double parking and noise, rather than actual crime. Well, then. It sounds as if these dispensaries are more of an inconvenience than an actual threat to the community.

Read more: <http://newsfeed.time.com/2011/09/26/want-more-crime-in-your-city-close-your-local-medical-marijuana-dispensary-says-study/#ixzz2U7CnFodo>

## Angie Lake

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**From:** lawyer.lavigne@gmail.com on behalf of Thomas Lavigne <tom@cannabiscounsel.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:54 PM  
**To:** Committee; Angie Lake; Rep. Kevin Cotter; Rep. Klint Kesto (District 39); Rep. Kurt Heise; Rep. Brad Jacobsen; Rep. Joel Johnson; Rep. Andrea LaFontaine; Rep. Tom Leonard (District 93); Rep. Phil Cavanagh (District 10); Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton (District 27); Rep. Jeff Irwin; District 14  
**Subject:** In support of H.B. 4271 medicinal cannabis Provisioning Center Bill

Dear Michigan House of Representatives Judiciary Committee,

Cannabis Counsel P.L.C, as a law firm, supports H.B. 4271, the cannabis provisioning center bill.

Prior legal engagements prevented my attendance at today's hearing regarding H.B. 4271 providing for safe access by medical cannabis patients at Provisioning Centers.

Like a bad prank joke the Supreme Court ruled that patients are protected buying marijuana on the black market (bad public policy); and that "selling" is included in the definition of "medical use" for which Section 4 immunity exists (true), but that in such a sale, there is no immunity to the Section 4 registered patient/caregiver-seller, if the seller is not also receiving marijuana to treat his own debilitating medical condition, except for caregivers selling to their patients connected through the MMP registry.

Due process requires patients be on notice what is criminal and what is not. The current state of the law inherently denies due process to patients and caregivers. Thus the need for you to pass HB 4271 providing safe access to patients' medicinal cannabis through provisioning centers, which can sell to any patient, and can buy overages from patients and caregivers.

Burdens of proof are allocated and transferred between the parties in the law. Section 4(d) creates such a rebuttable evidentiary presumption. The Michigan Supreme Court turned Section 4(d) into an extra-judicial tool of arrest and summary conviction, supplanting Sections 4(a) & (b)'s broad grants of immunity for "medical use". They ruled Section 4(d)'s presumption of "medical use" is rebutted if the party is not treating his OWN medical conditions, making sales for money, as if that closes the case, rather than shifts the burden of proof as intended.

Pyramids of caregivers connected to patient/caregivers, connected to patient/caregivers, together partial barter transactions distinguish current dispensaries from the Compassionate Apothecary. However, patients are inconvenienced, having to both bring cannabis with them to trade, or barter, with a seller, in addition to money, or mail the MMP a change of caregiver form, and having to then wait for the new card before they can buy cannabis at the dispensary, as patients would currently need to change their caregiver to one of the few caregivers running the dispensary, who fill-up at just five patients each caregiver.

Based upon discriminatory attitudes and deceitful entrapment, patients and caregivers are under attack on several fronts:

- criminal felonies for their "medical use"
- child protective services removals of patients' children
- discrimination in employment
- discrimination in housing
- discrimination in health care by hospitals, physician groups, research dollars and pain clinics
- denial of academic freedom through censorship in medical research

The current theater of the absurd requires your quick response to bring some sanity to the cognitive dissonance plaguing patients, caregivers and most of all our children.

Children suffer the most from the lies that this benign flower equals heroin! If we were lying about cannabis, the children may think we are lying about heroin.

Prohibition's ends (chasing a plant) so do not justify the means (criminalization, etc, see list above), it amounts to the theater of the absurd.

Opponents to this bill say cultivators can care-give for patients, but cultivators are more likely to be prosecuted for felony manufacturing, maintaining a drug house, conspiracy, felony firearm, as if they point the guns at the plants to make them grow. I represented a tree farmer who switched planting to cannabis for his double transplant survivor father patients, which father reports next month for a ten year sentence, and the son is serving 5 years in a federal prison. This may be why there is a shortage of caregivers for patients, requiring provisioning centers.

Not only federal. I have three clients in jail right now in state court cases too; and calls everyday of people just getting out of jail from an arrest, sometimes 14-days after arrest, 5-days; these two examples come to mind because they are two of those in jail, for whom I am having to fight to get them both credit for time served as sentenced, as the jails and probation try to assert "standard" misinterpretations of such.

Bladder Cancer is cured and prevented by cannabis.

<http://www.freep.com/usatoday/article/2153019>

I saw a bladder cancer survivor testify before you today.

The world around us is surpassing the US in medical research because of the blindness to the biggest broad net cure, and cost saver on the planet, cannabis. As if with blinders on, we are in mass denial of the global consensus on cannabis medicine, and the endo-cannabinoid system within the human body, a system of systems, offering unique curative powers. Cannabis fits like a key into the human endo-cannabinoid system, made up of cannabinoid receptors, keyholes for cannabis. Pharmaceuticals inartfully forge bogus receptors, and cannot compare to cannabis in terms of the lack of side effects from cannabis.

I implored the US Attorneys office to file the nations biggest Antitrust case in history against the various industrial espionage actors against competitors using their

competing natural resource, cannabis. Everyone knows the list and stories of anti-competitive espionage through deceit and bribery:

**BigPharma** has been killing our children through producing the leading cause of accidental deaths amongst young adults; hosts of side effects like death, suicidal and homicidal ideation. Their harmed competitors: medical cannabis businesses and doctors.

**BigPaper** has been making paper by clear-cutting old growth forests for their lumber pulp instead of annual cannabis harvests, very dumb. Cannabis makes better paper, and we would not the extent of global climate change had we been making paper out of cannabis instead for the last 100 years.

**BigCotton** gunned for and benefited from prohibition of cannabis, as the equivalent of the cotton gin had just been invented when prohibition began.

**BigChemical** loves cotton to sell them pesticides and various chemicals cannabis does not require, as it has tremendous self defense from pesticides.

Added to the list of benefactors of prohibition, although not parties to the anti-trust claims now include **BigPrison**; **BigBloodTesting**; **BigDrugTreatment**; Law Enforcement (especially through forfeiture); and Violent Drug Cartels.

Trillions of dollars would be lost by each of these industries if cannabis were not prohibited. Just follow the money, and do the right thing.

Do not listen to the MMP of LARA, as they are bad actors. We had to petition a court for a writ of mandamus of three basic duties administering the MMA:

- Cards were being received by patients after expiry, or with just a couple of months to go;
- No annual reports were provided to the legislature; and
- None of the over 100 petitions filed for new qualifying medical conditions were responded to by LARA, with no new conditions panel convened.

Until we filed this writ of mandamus action, whereupon suddenly:

- they started getting cards out after just a couple of months;
- they issued three annual reports at once; and
- they convened a new conditions panel.

Rather than grant the Writ of Mandamus the Circuit Court granted summary disposition to LARA, reasoning that they did these three things by the time of the hearing. This proved to be a poor public policy, because now the new conditions panel is dissolved, for example, and LARA will think that they do not need to obey the law as long as they do when sued. In the meanwhile judges have been assuming only a few quacks have been recommending cannabis, until now the annual reports reveal thousands of doctors recommending cannabis. The judge also held that the veteran petitioner lacked standing to mandate LARA to respond to all of the 100 petitions to add new qualifying medical conditions.

The original MMMA provides that LARA's:

"rules shall establish application and renewal fees that generate revenues sufficient to offset all expenses of implementing and administering this act." MMMA Sec. 5(b).

In fact, LARA may even accept private donations to administer the MMMA. MMMA Sec. 5(b). Your amendment effective April 1st was already implied in the original MMMA in this way. Instead the State has raided the MMP monies for the general fund, and purposely underfunded, understaffed, and under-equipped the MMP in order to purposefully sabotage the proper administration of the MMMA.

Read the medical research; don't be fooled.

S  
incerely,

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Randy L. Glisson II

Adrian, MI

DOB 06/16/1983

HB 4271

My name is Randy Glisson II. I have been a MMJ Cardholder since August of 2010. I am a taxpayer, husband, and most importantly a father to three young girls. I have cardholders who are family, friends, and co-workers. When I was nine years old I was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. The problem has only persisted as the years have passed. My favorite hobby is playing music or more exclusively playing the guitar. Not only is it an artistic expression, but a nice stress reducer on occasion as well. I have tried Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Vicodin, and Percoset to ease my symptoms. Being a father and someone who cares about my future I cannot take an addictive pharmaceutical drug that is not only addictive but known to cause major kidney and liver failures. Not to mention if one of my girls got into those pill bottles it may be their last mistake. For the previous reasons as well as others, I chose to try medical marijuana. Before trying Medical Marijuana I was skeptical. I received my card and was lucky to run into honest, knowledgeable, and dependable people to advise me on the medication. Quickly, I found that the cannabis infused balm alleviated my symptoms. Upon more discussion I found that the plant variety Indica provided my muscles with a comfort that I had not felt from any pharmaceutical. From that point on I did my own personal research with MMJ patients and found that many ailments were cured by Cannabis.



After the Supreme Court Ruling (People V. McQueen) myself, like many others, found it impossible to legally obtain medication. Caregivers providing medication exclusively for their patients works great in theory. In reality any number of problems can pop up. Molds, Mildews, insects, and electrical outages (just to name a few) can hinder if not decimate an entire grow. Being that a Marihuana plant takes nearly 5 months from beginning to end, it is not feasible that those affected by the error of nature or their caregiver should wait several months before being able to attain medication.

With so much money spent on our Pure Michigan campaign, it is amazing that the SC ruling stripped all out of state patients their right to obtain medication. As the SC ruling says that medication can only be transferred/purchased from a caregiver who is connected through the patient through the registry, yet any out of state card holders cannot register with a Michigan Caregiver therefore cannot obtain medication. Can you imagine going on vacation and not being able to have your medication? I'm sure it is that choice that keeps some, if even a few, from traveling to our great state.

I feel that MMJ patients deserve a place to obtain medication safely. If my mother or my sister needed to legally obtain safe, clean, properly diagnosed medicine, I would have no place to send them. If HB 4271 passes I would be easily able to point them in the right direction as opposed to a part of town where they risk their safety and well-being.

Distinguished Representatives of our House and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Let me first begin by introducing myself. My name is Nicole; I am a Michigan resident, medical marijuana cardholder, advocate, and registered voter. I stand before you today to urge you to hear HB 4271 for a couple of different reasons and on behalf of many people who were unable to be here today.

HB 4271 would provide to all patients and caregivers alike, throughout this state, the safe and legal access to the medication they are not otherwise able to obtain due to the current court rulings and laws in place.

As it stands, due to a recent Supreme Court ruling, patients and caregivers must connect through the registry in-order to receive immunity when exchanging medication. This connection process would be fine if it were anonymous, however, it is not. The connection process consists of actually finding a caregiver, someone you trust to provide safe, pesticide and/or bug free medication at a cost that would still be reasonably affordable. This is not the easiest task for some people, as some people do not have that connection of friends. For example, a homeless person or a person in a group home or halfway house might not have many friends or know many individuals.

Now, if you are lucky enough to have found a dependable caregiver, in-order to connect to that person you must first relinquish all of your personal information to them (name, social security number, birthday, copy of drivers license, address, etc...) This is done via the original application and/or change form which is sent to the state. Both caregiver and patient keep a copy of the aforementioned application/change form on file to prove connection until their cards arrive.

I would like you to keep in mind that a copy of the initial certification application contains a copy of the patients' doctors' certification.

Knowing that,

What if a person doesn't want anyone else to know they are HIV positive or that they have Hepatitis C because they them self are still having a hard time grasping? What if they just want to obtain their medical cannabis registry card along with their medication in a safe and private location WITHOUT feeling that they are being forced to disclose their private information to someone who may or may not comply with HIPAA?

Nowadays hundreds if not thousands of identities are stolen every day and by forcing a person to connect to someone as well as reveal their personal information in-order to obtain medication seems like adding fuel to an unnecessary fire. Especially when the destruction of the aforementioned paperwork has never been addressed and usually just gets tossed into many individuals trashcans and/or public dumpsters when their hard card arrives.

HB 4271 if heard and passed would provide a patient with that safe, confidential establishment to obtain their medication in, without the need to connect to anyone eliminating the need to divulge personal information.

Provisioning centers, as referred to in HB 4271, not only eliminate the need to connect or divulge personal information but they also provide to medical cannabis patients and caregivers a private establishment where they can safely obtain a selection of tested medication absolutely free of pesticides, molds, mites, and/or any other harmful substances.

Provisioning centers also offer a knowledgeable staff that of which is capable of assisting the patient with selecting the proper medication associated with their individual ailment. This is essential and necessary for patients when looking for relief due to the overwhelming amount of cannabis strains and "medibles" (medicated edibles) geared towards specific treatments.

Also, as it stands at the current moment, out of state patients are not able obtain their necessary medication when visiting Michigan. Out of state patients cannot obtain a caregiver in this state, as there is not application process for that. If HB 4271 is heard and passed it would allow those individuals visiting our state the ability to purchase their necessary medication preventing that person from having to cut their visit short or worse, go without.

A recent Supreme Court ruling recently stated that a patient was able to obtain their medication from anyone, even if they are not connected to them, and receive the immunity given by section 4. HOWEVER, that does not go the same for the person selling or transferring the medication. That person unfortunately risks going to jail essentially preventing that person from wanting to actually sell or transfer the medication to the out of state patient in the first place.

Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act does state reciprocity with all other medical marijuana states. To allow patients from visiting states the ability to obtain medication is extremely important because 19 states now have some form of medicinal cannabis laws in effect.

Denying out of state patients access to medication while visiting our state, as we are currently doing, is definitely driving tourism away from our state.

Therefore in closing I urge you to hear HB 4271 as this bill is important to Michigan in so many different ways and is benefiting to so many different people for so many different reasons, I just wish I had the time to touch on them all and not just the two I've just mentioned.

I appreciate and thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Good Morning,

Governor Snyder, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen. Please let me first thank you for letting me speak to all of you this morning and to explain myself and the topic of medicinal dispensaries. Second I would like introduce my good friend from MSC3 \_\_\_\_\_ (which one stands with me you can decide... for helping me show some examples of uniforms for the speech). He/she is standing with me in support of my condition which I will get to and show some things I brought from my tour of duty. If it is ok for Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to approach to show you up close these things as I talk about them in my speech it would be appreciated and my honor to show you these things and how they relate to myself and my condition. Third I would like to explain my background and how difficult it is to stand in front of you all today.

I am a Combat Veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom; during my tour of duty overseas I was exposed to IED's and VBIED's which are Improvised Explosive Devices, Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Devices more commonly known from the media as Roadside Bombs and Car Bombs. Along with mortars, rockets, sniper fire and suicide bombers. The reason I bring this to your attention is that I have a phobia or symptom that whenever I am center of attention or stick out from the ordinary, due to events that happened on my deployment. If I could have \_\_\_\_\_, please show my first example, a standard issue military tan under shirt that my wife worn when serving her country oversea in the same area of operations I was serving in, in the District of Hiwija in MND North. If you observe this standard issue military tan shirt has Lettering and numbers, these represent her battle roster number and blood type. The general order given down to soldiers was to take black permanent markers to all of your undershirts and write these things in the event that an explosion occurs generally what was left was your torso area where your body armor mostly covered. So they could proper recover your remains and get your body back to your family. Also I would like to show you combat patches one being the 303<sup>rd</sup> MP Co. a Michigan based Reserve Unit and the American flag in two different styles. I bring these forward for you to look at and think that the sniper threat from our enemies in our AO and the respect I have for my foe is that they would pick out soldiers that stood out differently from a simple Unit patch to our own American flag that was worn on the right shoulder of the uniform. You might observe to different flags standard issued colored or a PX bought subdued version. I have such a respect for my enemy that if you were the one that stuck out differently from another soldier you were targeted so again another General Order passed down from my superiors that we all had to have the same patches that's how small of a thing can mean the difference between life and death in a combat zone ... Another example of modern day combat on the battlefield that hasn't changed since WWII. I would like you to turn your attention to the placement of the American flag while put on the right shoulder. It appears that the flag is backwards and that's not the case the flag is purposely made that way, because as Soldiers we are always pushing forward into the battlefield never turning the other way as the flag would show being flown as we moved forward to our accomplish our mission. I Say this because that's the love for my country and my brothers and sisters in arms fighting alongside of me. So simple but so meaningful and the pride of wearing my countries uniform represents or state and country. I would also like to share a part from my Warrior Ethos instilled in my heart forever. "I will always place the mission first", that

simple saying meant so much and my pride for my country and fellow soldiers that fought alongside of me I placed the mission above my own personal well being to make my fellow soldiers get home safe.

Along with these examples I shown you, I would like to share a few personal symptoms, I have Post traumatic Stress Disorder and it interferes with my daily life. A simple daily routine of going to the store for groceries or out to dinner with family, is riddled with panic attacks, flashbacks, because I feel with a single moment an attack or explosion will happen, the mental and physical toll PTSD takes on myself, my wife and child it goes back to scanning for threats constantly staying vigilant and on guard feeling like at that moment I am sticking out. That's how scared I am of a simple trip to the store or restaurant that I know is completely safe and that I know poses no threat to myself or family but my PTSD tells me otherwise. Due to these symptoms my mind is stuck as a 23 year old, Michigan Combat Soldier overseas. So up here today I stand in front of you wearing an adult diaper today due to when I feel too nervous I lose bowel control from the phobia of sticking out like a sore thumb. So to be able to get the medicinal medication I need and made in ordinance by state law, I can finally be able to walk into a store or restaurant and not worry about others and scanning for threats is a huge boost to myself confidence and for a brief moment the felling of being safe means the world to me and that's what this medication does for me.

If there is any Vietnam Combat Veterans in the house they know the same feelings of vulnerability from carrying a man pack or field radio. It is never a good feeling to know that you are a priority target for your enemy because they know you are in communications with others on the battlefield. To wear that man pack and know that others in your squad depend on you to call to higher for reinforcements or critical life saving gear not only for American soldiers, civilians and your enemy that still deserves proper treatment under Geneva Conventions Laws even if he help or killed another brother or sister in the armed forces that you served beside. To get that same feeling of being vulnerable years later in a store in forms of panic attacks, flashbacks, or the extreme mental toll it takes on your mind and body but also its effects my family as well. Sometimes it's just too much and unbearable which gives me another personal favorite symptom of mine is suicidal idealications from overwhelming thoughts and hurting my family from isolation and anger episodes. But once again this medicine is able to bring me back to Michigan and back to reality so I can live a bearable somewhat peaceful life.

But enough with myself I am here to speak on behalf of other patients and caregivers, including those veterans with the same symptoms I have. Medicinal dispensaries are the life line of a service organization that provides safe and effective medicine to their patients and caregivers. With the help from non-profit dispensaries which give proper growing classes and safe advice for individuals to get safe medicine produced by caregivers, along with being able to give medicinal medicines which range from Dry medicinal, edibles, concentrates and clones that are supervised and made sure they are fit to be used properly not having mold and bugs which are harmful to the patients that deserve better. Medicines are shipped out from responsible and respectable dispensaries to get tested at designated facilities. These individuals like MSC3 care and give their heart and souls into a believe that they can bring safer medicines that have far fewer side effects and less life threatening consequences for consuming medicine Grown in Pure Michigan soil that can benefit Cancer patients, Chronic Pain Suffers, PTSD and the list goes on. Not a manufactured medicine at pharmacital facilities that have 15 different

side effects and possible life threaten consequences. I would like to point out that as a soldier I was a Military Police Officer who understands both sides to a certain point. But as my time as a Military Police Officer you learn that there is always individuals that ruin it for others but not following the State Law that was passed in 2008. I also personally believe that dispensaries should have medication rooms where patients are able to be supervised while taking new medicinal medicines for the simple fact if a patient that no longer get that chance or opportunity takes it at home from a non-respectable caregiver that cuts corners and make unsafe medicine for patients with mold and other varying things that can ruin medicine. This goes back to having established dispensaries that take pride in giving safe usable medicine. Without Dispensaries the proper service that patient needs cannot be fulfilled. With what you are trying to make that only caregivers can give medicines. But as a former caregiver you cannot tell your patients you can one hundred percent guarantee that your crop they need will finish without problems or worse case scenario complete lose of a crop of medicine due to root rot, mold or bugs. So than that patient can't go anywhere else for medicine due to dispensaries being shut down... bad enough to leave 5 patients without medicine and nowhere to go. But to leave thousands out of medicine because they don't trust or can afford a caregiver due to Dispensaries unable to do their job as a service organization. Which is being overlooked and looked down upon, from judgmental people that have never been inside of a service organization like this one up for on the house bill \_\_\_\_\_?

Enclosing I would once again like to say thank you for hearing my voice, and letting me exercise a amendment right that I fought hard for without having rights as a soldier. I don't know if many of you know this but as a soldier you do not have freedom of speech or individual rights. You sign those rights away when you take an oath to defend your country from foreign and domestic enemies of my country. In the military I learned something that will always stick with me for the rest of my life. That's "Take care of your own" I ask you representatives of the citizens of the great state of Michigan to take in consideration of taking care of your own. Without these dispensaries I don't stand a chance to try to live a normal life as a 28 year old husband, father, and son of proud Michigan residents that fought for this Country but not only our State of Michigan.



Dear distinguished members of the committee, guests...

I want to begin by thanking you for taking the time to hear us today.

- I am here today on behalf of the patients (voters) of Lenawee County to speak on the benefits of having provisioning centers approved.

- There are numerous reasons why this bill will benefit our communities. However, I will only go into several of them today.

(1)

- The state of Michigan has spent millions of our tax dollars on our "Pure Michigan" campaign which is designed to increase tourism to our state.

- However, 19 other states have medical marijuana, and their residents who are patients, would reconsider their vacation to our beautiful state because our laws are currently prohibiting their access to the medication they require.

- Medical marijuana patients RARELY visit other states because of the inaccessibility to the drug.

- We have an opportunity to make travel more enticing for these folks by allowing them to visit a provisioning center and access the medication they need while visiting.

- Tourism is vital to our state, this is not the time to play politics with our economy. Let's send the right message to the people.

(2)

- We have an increasing threat of identity theft not just in Michigan, but nationwide.

- The current system has been so carelessly set up, that it is only a matter of time before we start seeing a serious epidemic of fraud and identity theft due to all the registry applications that are currently floating around from one caregiver to another.

- Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, all of these can be compromised very easily in the wrong person's hand.

- And let's face it folks, it is very hard to find someone you can actually trust with your private information.

- Provisioning centers would allow patients to obtain their medication until he or she can find a trust worthy individual who they can trust with their personal information as well as their medical marijuana grow.

(3)

- And last but not least, this is about safe access for those who do not have caregivers, the elderly, the disabled, or patients that simply do not have contacts in the industry.

- Not to mention the tainted product out there that is being sold by caregivers as medicine.

- By not allowing provision centers to operate, you will forcing medical marijuana into the black market, WHERE IT DOESNT BELONG.

- This is a drug that needs to be regulated, as it is for medicinal use.

- Regulations need to be put into place so that it remains a safe drug to use in the treatment of cancer and other serious ailments.

- Inexperienced growers and caregivers often do not properly dry, cure, or flush the product.

- This can result in mold spores and/or contamination of the product.

- It makes no sense treating a medical condition with poison.

- Having safe access for patients where they can select their medication with confidence is our responsibility.

- And by not acting now we are basically telling the patients of this state that we do not care about their health and well being.

- Ask yourselves this question, if your mother had cancer and wanted to seek treatment using medical marijuana, where would you rather her obtain her medication? A street thug or a safe access provisioning center?

Thank you very much!

To whom it may concern:

As a medical marijuana patient from southern Michigan, I am writing you this letter to ask your support for House Bill 4271 which would allow for dispensaries. This bill is important to me because it would provide a local establishment for me to safely access medical cannabis when I am unable to harvest my own.

Dispensaries are useful because patients are able to obtain medication that has been screened for pests, mold, and mildew. As a grower, I know from experience that things don't always go as planned. Many variables go into completing a successful harvest and if something goes wrong, it's nice to know there is a safe place to go and get medication if need be. Many patients in our state are not able to grow for themselves or are not able to find someone to grow their plants for them. Implementing H.B. 4271 would make it much easier for medical marijuana card holders to get their high quality medical cannabis. Once again, please support H.B. 4271.

Sincerely,

Joey Palmer

To whom It may Concern

my name is Randy Torres I am  
a michigan medical marijuana patient.  
I am writing you this letter so that  
you can understand what it would be  
like not having a safe place to  
get my meds. I have been a patient  
since 2010 and when I started going  
to ASC3 in Adrian mi. I have been  
very impressed how they are. They are  
very caring and knowledgeable in informing  
you what meds can help for your <sup>pain</sup> ~~control~~  
control. It is so hard to find a caregiver  
I finally got one threw msls and I  
am so blessed with them I couldn't  
imagine having to find somewhere else  
to go. so please think of the people  
that have to suffer in pain Every day  
and that are tired of taking pain pills  
that make you worse, or have to go  
on the streets looking for my meds  
I want to go to a place I feel safe  
and don't feel like I'm committing a  
crime. Thank you for your time and  
please think of all the people that  
are suffering and need a safe place  
to go

Randy Torres

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

As a member of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Community, I write to ask your support for H.B. 4271, the bill to allow local municipalities to regulate dispensaries.

This bill is important to me as a medical marijuana patient. H.B. 4271 would also ease the stresses of searching for a trustworthy caregiver to acquire medication through and would allow safe access obtaining my medication from a dispensary. In recent times myself, as well as other patients have been forced to venture out of our community hunting for a place to get quality medical marihuana with no avail.

Dispensaries provide a familiar and safe environment for patients to get medication. The medicine on the shelves has been examined to make sure there is nothing potentially harmful in it like mold, mildew, pesticides, or pests themselves. Establishing a relationship with a dispensary would enable workers to get to know what medication would best benefit a patient's conditions. H.B. 4271 would significantly increase my access to high quality medication without worry or concern about what I'm actually getting.

There are over 120,000 medical marihuana patients in our fine state who are involved in many aspects of the medical marijuana community. Without safe access through dispensaries, helping these patients get medication proves to be a difficult endeavor. Once again, I urge your support of H.B. 4271.

Sincerely,

Leah Cox

I am a retired deputy sheriff and a medical marijuana patient. Without access to a dispensary I will have nowhere to purchase my medication. As a retired deputy, I am unable to go to the criminal element to get my medications.

I have suffered severe head trauma and people could take advantage of me. The dispensary provides a place where that does NOT happen.

The information I have gained through the dispensary is invaluable, it is a place for much more than to simply fill your medication!

From an officer's point of view, I feel it will reduce the street level crimes.